

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 14 and 16 without prejudice. Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 17 and add new claims 19 to 23 as follows. All pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (Currently amended): A multichannel wavelength measurement device comprising:

multiple optical detectors, each detector adapted to detect light at a different wavelength;
and

a sequence of optical wavelength splitters in an optical path, each of the optical splitters adapted to preferentially provide light to one of the detectors at the desired detected wavelength of the detector wherein one desired detected wavelength is at a wavelength that indicates the presence of water in paper wherein a first detector receives light provided by a first optical splitter, the first optical splitter preferably providing light at a second wavelength to a second optical splitter which preferably provides the light at the second wavelength to a second optical detector wherein the optical splitters are pass filters wherein at least one of the pass filters is a high pass filter or a low pass filter and wherein the multichannel wavelength measurement device is used to determine characteristics of paper.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended): The multichannel wavelength measurement device of claim [[2]] 1, wherein at least one of the pass filters is a high pass filter.

4. (Currently Amended): The multichannel wavelength measurement device of claim [[2]]
1, wherein at least one of the pass filters is a low pass filter.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled):

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original): The multichannel wavelength measurement device of claim 1, wherein the preferential providing of light for one of the optical splitters is done by preferentially reflecting light at the wavelength.

9. (Original): The multichannel wavelength measurement device of claim 1, wherein the preferentially providing of light at the wavelength is done by preferentially transmitting light at the wavelength.

10. (Currently Amended): A method of determining characteristics of paper comprising:
using optical wavelength splitters to preferentially provide light from an optical path to detectors at desired detected wavelengths of the detectors wherein one desired detected wavelength is at a wavelength that indicates the presence of water in the paper; and

using the detectors to detect light at the desired detected wavelengths wherein a first optical splitter preferentially provides light at a first wavelength to a first detector and

preferentially provides a light at a second wavelength to a second optical splitter, the second optical splitter preferentially providing light at the second wavelength to a second detector and wherein the optical splitters are optical pass filters and at least one of the pass filters is an optical high pass filter or an optical low pass filter.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[11]] 10, wherein at least one of the optical pass filters is an optical high pass filter.

13. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[11]] 10, wherein at least one of the optical pass filter is an optical low pass filter.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[14]] 10, wherein the first and second optical splitters are optical high pass filters.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[8]] 10, wherein the preferentially providing of light at the wavelength by one of the optical splitters is done by preferentially reflecting light.

18. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the preferentially providing of light at the wavelength by one of the optical splitters is done by preferentially transmitting light.

19. (New): The multichannel wavelength measurement device of claim 1 wherein the first and second optical splitters are optical high pass filters.

20. (New): The multichannel wavelength measurement device of claim 1 wherein the first and second optical splitters are optical low pass filters.

21. (New): The multichannel wavelength measurement device of claim 1 wherein the detectors detect light at a first wavelength that indicates the presence of water to generate a first detected signal and detect light at a second wavelength to generate a second detected signal that serves as a reference and the device obtains a ratio of the first detected signal to the second detected signal.

22. (New): The method of claim 10 wherein the first and second optical splitters are optical low pass filters.

23. (New): The method of claim 10 wherein the detectors are employed (i) to detect light at a first wavelength that indicates the presence of water and to generate a first detected signal and (ii) to detect light at a second wavelength to generate a second detected signal that serves as a

reference and the method further comprises the step of obtaining a ratio of the first detected signal to the second detected signal.